

2 Samuel 13:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she had a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her.

Analysis

And she had a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Amnon and Tamar, emphasizing unresolved sin, family breakdown. Amnon's rape of Tamar and Absalom's revenge illustrate how unresolved sin metastasizes into family-wide dysfunction. David's failure to discipline Amnon (possibly from guilt over his own sexual sin) enabled further tragedy. Hebrew terminology emphasizes Tamar's desolation and Absalom's calculated hatred. The narrative demonstrates intergenerational sin consequences and the necessity of proper justice administration.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 13 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding unresolved sin, family breakdown provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and

expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of unresolved sin, family breakdown?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

וְעַל יָהּ H5921	כֶּתָנִת H3801	פֶּסֶם יָם H6446	כִּי H3588	כִּי H3651	תִּלְבַּשׁ H3847
	And she had a garment	of divers colours			apparelled
בָּנוֹת H1323	הָמֶלֶךְ H4428	הַבְּתוּלֹת H1330	מֵעֵיל יָם H4598		וַיָּבֵא H3318
daughters	were the king's	that were virgins	upon her for with such robes		brought
אֹתָהּ H853	מִשְׁכָּתוֹ H8334	הִיא H2351	וַנֵּבֶל H5274	הַדֶּלֶת H1817	אַחֲרֵיהֶּ: H310
	Then his servant	her out	and bolted	the door	after

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 37:3 (Parallel theme): Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

Judges 5:30 (Parallel theme): Have they not sped? have they not divided the prey; to every man a damsel or two; to Sisera a prey of divers colours, a prey of divers colours of needlework, of divers colours of needlework on both sides, meet for the necks of them that take the spoil?

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